

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 /085 W

-----015936 090012Z /12

R 081617Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2965

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PINT, IS, PO, XF

SUBJ: PORTUGAL AND THE ARAB LEAGUE

REF: (A) LISBON 6957 (NOTAL), (B) LISBON 6178, (C) LISBON 5821,
(D) CAIRO 14792, (E) CAIRO 12381

SUMMARY: THE GOP IS RELIEVED THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE HAS
ABSTAINED FROM JOINT ACTION AGAINST PORTUGAL FOR
THE LATTER'S MAY 13 DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO APPOINT
AN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE,
HOWEVER, DENIED REPORTS THAT PORTUGAL HAS FROZEN PROGRESS
ON RELATIONS WITH THE GOI. END SUMMARY.

1. UNGA DISCUSSIONS CONFIRMED: IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS
WITH EMBOFF, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT
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FOREIGN MINISTER MEDIEROS FERREIRA WILL MEET WITH
ARAB LEADERS AT UNGA TO DISCUSS PORTUGUESE-ISRAELI
RELATIONS, BUT DENIED REPORTS THAT THE GOP HAD AGREED
TO DELAY APPOINTING AN AMBASSADOR TO TEL AVIV. PRESS
REPORTS HERE HAVE QUOTED ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RIAD TO THE EFFECT THAT SOME MEMBER STATES HAD RECEIVED
"FORMAL GUARANTEES" FROM THE GOP THAT PLANS TO SEND AN

AMBASSADOR TO TEL AVIV HAD BEEN "FROZEN." CONSEQUENTLY, THE LEAGUE DEFERRED FORMAL ACTION ON THE ISSUE IN ANTICIPATION OF TALKS BETWEEN GOP FOREIGN MINISTER FERREIRA AND ARAB LEADERS AT UNGA. THE FAILURE OF THE PORTUGUESE THUS FAR TO NAME AN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INDICATING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE PLO TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN LISBON REPORTEDLY SOOTHED ARAB CONCERN.

2. NEXT STEP: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES DOUBT THE GOP WILL NAME AN AMBASSADOR TO TEL AVIV BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THEY ADMIT THAT THE MAY 13, 1977 PORTUGUESE-ISRAELI COMMUNIQUE WHICH ANNOUNCED THE INTENTION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WAS "FORCED" ON THEM BY PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND NOW SIMPLY WISH THEY COULD LIE LOW FOR A WHILE. PS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BELIEVE AN APPOINTMENT WILL BE MADE BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT ON THE BASIS OF THE SOARES COMMITMENT TO ALLON (REF B).

3. THE PLO: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND MATEUS HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH A PLO OFFICE IN LISBON BUT ALL AGREE THAT PLO REPRESENTATION HERE "WITH FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES" WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED "VERY CAREFULLY."

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4. COMMENT: THE GOP IS OBVIOUSLY RELIEVED OVER THE ARAB LEAGUE DECISION BUT IS BY NO MEANS OFF THE HOOK. FUTURE PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE MAY WELL HINGE ON FOREIGN MINISTER FERREIRA'S UNGA DISCUSSIONS. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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